

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph: Claims 1-4

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that, regarding claim 1, it is confusing and unclear how one or more scribe cracks can be formed on each side of two sheets of substrates (emphasis added by the Examiner). For the purposes of examination, the Examiner has assumed that, according to the specification and drawings, that at least one or more scribe cracks are formed on a side of two sheets of substrates.

In response, the applicant directs the Examiner's attention to FIGS. 7A through 11 which show cracks A to L on one face of each substrate 11 and 12. The faces are opposed to each other. The cracks A to L are parallel and transverse to each other. Therefore, at least two cracks intersect each other.

As a result, the applicant has amended claim 1 in part to recite as follows:

-- forming at least two scribe cracks on the second face of said first sheet and on the first face of said second sheet, said at least two scribe cracks intersecting each other on the second face of said first sheet and on the first face of said second sheet--.

Consequently, the applicant maintains that claim 1, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which the applicant regards

as the invention. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections: Claims 1-3

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shishido et al, JP 9-311323, published December 2, 1997.

The Examiner asserts that Shishido et al, FIGS. 1 and 3, disclose all the limitations of claim 1. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Shishido et al disclose the limitations of forming at least one or more scribe cracks (11, 24) on a side of two substrates (1, 2).

In response, the applicant maintains that claim 1, as amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, by reciting forming at least two scribe cracks on the second face of said first sheet and on the first face of said second sheet, said at least two scribe cracks intersecting each other on the second face of said first sheet and intersecting each other on the first face of said second sheet patentably distinguishes over Shishido et al.

Shishido et al, FIGS. 1 and 3, disclose scribe cracks 11 and 24 parallel to each other on each face of the two sheets, but no cracks intersect each other on each face.

Consequently, claims 1-3 patentably distinguish over Shishido et al. As a result, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-3 over the prior art.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections: Claim 4

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shishido et al, JP 9-311323, in view of the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA), FIG. 5A.

The Examiner asserts with respect to claim 4 that, although Shishido et al do not disclose a step of cutting the adhered substrate by irradiating a laser, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cut an adhered substrate by irradiating laser light on a surface of such adhered substrate, since it is common practice in the art, e.g. AAPA FIG. 5, to obtain a highly appropriate cutting surface.

In response, the applicant maintains that the AAPA does not overcome the deficiencies of Shishido et al with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 4 patentably distinguishes over Shishido et al in view of the AAPA. As a result, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 4 over the prior art.

The foregoing amendment and remarks establish the patentable nature of all of the claims under consideration in the application, i.e., claims 1-4. No new matter has been added. Wherefore, early and favorable reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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